MALNAD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE MALNAD DURING THE YEAR 1917-18, HELD AT ARSIKERE ON SATURDAY THE 19TH JANUARY 1918.

PRESENT.

1. Mr. M. A. Narayana Iyengar, B.A., B.L., Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, and Chairman.
2. „ S. N. Appanna Iyengar, B.A., B.L., Special Revenue Officer and Secretary.
3. Dr. M. Srinivasa Rao, M.A., M.D., etc., Sanitary Commissioner in Mysore.

SHIMOGA DISTRICT.

PRESENT.

4. Mr. P. Gopal Raj Urs, B.A., B.L., Assistant Commissioner, Shimoga Sub-Division.
5. „ P. Parthasarathi, L.M. & S., B.S.Sc., District Sanitary Officer.
6. „ S. R. Balakrishna Rao, B.A., LL.B., Advocate.

ABSENT.

1. Mr. B. Venugopalaiya, District Forest Officer.

KADUR DISTRICT.

PRESENT.

7. Mr. C. Devaraj Urs, Officiating Deputy Commissioner.
8. „ R. Nanaswami Rao, Special Revenue Officer.

ABSENT.

2. Mr. M. Machayya, B.A., District Forest Officer.
3. „ C. Srinivasa Rao, Coffee Planter.

HASSAN DISTRICT.

PRESENT.

9. Mr. C. Venkata Rao, B.A., Officiating Deputy Commissioner.

ABSENT.

4. Mr. M. Jagannatham Pillai, L.M. & S., District Medical Officer.
5. Dr. M. G. Samuel, M.D., D.T.M., District Sanitary Officer.
6. Mr. D. W. Meppen, District Economic Superintendent, Kadur, was also present.

I. Proceedings of the first meeting of the Central Committee for the improvement of the malnad during the year 1917-18 held at Shimoga on the 15th September 1917.

Confirmed.

II. Government Order No. 2261-5—San. 63-16-16, dated 18th October 1917, sanctioning the special census in the Tirthahalli Taluk.

Proposed by Mr. R. Nanaswami Rao, Special Revenue Officer, Kadur and Hassan, that a similar census be taken out in one taluk in each of the other two districts of Kadur and Hassan.

1. Recorded.
2. The proposal was put to the vote and lost.

III. Letter No. 2830—San. 76-17-3, dated 21st November 1917, from the Chief Secretary to Government, requesting to revise the scheme for the training of local dais in the elements of midwifery for a twelve months' course when the establishment of a maternity is sanctioned. Also revised scheme submitted by the Secretary on the same subject. (Appendix 'A'.)

Resolved that the revised scheme be approved and submitted for sanction of Government, there being all the facilities required for such training at Shimoga, where there is a qualified Indian Lady Medical graduate available for imparting instructions to the dais and a lying-in-ward for treating urgent labour cases.

IV. Memo No. 289—San. 77-17-2, dated 23rd November 1917, from the Chief Secretary to Government, forwarding a copy of his letter No. 2898—San. 77-17-2 of the same date to the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga, pointing out the desirability of the Shimoga District Board, purchasing a boring set for trial wells and stating that the Malnad Improvement Committee may then get the appliance as a loan from the District Board.

Recorded.

V. Government Order No. J. 1863-8—Pol. 26-17-17, dated the 1st December 1917, stating that no change in the present practice is called for in the matter of exempting the malnad raiyats from the obligation of showing their licenses and the weapons covered thereby once a year to the nearest Magistrate under Rule 18 of the Arms Act.

Recorded.

VI. Letter No. F. 2864—S. E. 65-17-3, dated 10th December 1917, from the Chief Secretary to Government, stating that Government do not see sufficient grounds to reconsider the orders passed in the matter of extension of the concession of opening toddy shops on their holdings by the hiduvalidars in the malnad.

Recorded.

VII. Letter No. 3359—San. 75-17-2, dated 20th December 1917, from the Chief Secretary to Government, stating that the Malnad Improvement Committee may suggest the local bodies (municipalities) works of improvement necessary with reference to the proposal to extend the malnad improvement operations to municipal towns with slender resources.

Recorded.

VIII. Letter No. 607, dated 10th December 1917, from the Special Revenue Officer, Malnad Improvement Scheme, Kadur and Hassan Districts, forwarding for consideration the resolution of the Kadur District Committee in the matter of the grant of special scholarships to malnad students.

Resolved that the Inspector-General of Education in Mysore and the Secretary to the Economic Conference, Education Committee, may be requested to take suitable action in the matter and afford facilities to malnad students deserving special aid in view of the peculiar conditions prevailing in the malnad.

IX. A note drawn up by the Secretary on the system of land-tenure in the malnad as it exists between the landlord and tenant. Also note drawn up by Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Advocate, Shimoga, on the same subject. Also note drawn up by Mr. D. W. Meppen, District Economic Superintendent, Kadur, on the same subject. (Appendix 'B'.)

Resolved that the subject be referred to a Sub-Committee consisting of the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan (Chairman) the Secretary, Central Committee, (convener) the Special Revenue Officer, Kadur and Hassan, the District Economic Superintendent, Kadur and Mr. S. R. Balakrishna Rao, Advocate, Shimoga, for consideration and submission of definite proposals in the matter.

X. Letter No. 3850—San. 31-17-27, dated 16th January 1918, from the Chief Secretary to Government, forwarding for consideration of the Malnad Improvement Committee a copy of letter dated 1st December 1917, from Mr. D. Krishna Rao, offering his help and co-operation in opening out new roads in the Malnad.

Resolved that the matter be referred to the District Committees for consideration.

XI. Memo dated 19th January 1918, from the Secretary, Central Committee, proposing Central Committee meetings to be held in future at Hassan and Chikmagalur which are the District Headquarter places instead of at Arsikere and Birur. (Appendix 'C'.)

Resolved that Chikmagalur and Hassan be added to the list of places eligible for the Central Committee meetings.

XII. The next meeting of the Committee will be held at Tarikere on the 20th May 1918 in the Taluk Office at 3-30 P.M.

S. N. APPANNA IYENGAR,
Secretary, Central Committee, Shimoga.

M. A. NARAYANA IYENGAR,
Deputy Commissioner and Chairman, Central Committee, Shimoga.

APPENDIX A.

A scheme for the training of local dais in the elements of midwifery.

With a view to give some rudimentary training to the women who are at present attending to labour cases in the malnad, it is proposed to organize a course of elementary lectures in Kannada in the District Head-quarter town of Shimoga.

The expenditure will for the present be confined to women drawn from the Shimoga taluk including the town of Shimoga and any students who may be willing to attend the course of lectures from the other taluks in the district will also be admitted.

There is already a Female Dispensary in Shimoga under the charge of a qualified Indian Lady Doctor. There is also a lying-in-ward for urgent labour cases and a maternity has

also been recently sanctioned by Government for this town. Conditions are thus favourable for making a beginning straightway in the training of local dais.

It may be urged that at present there are not ample facilities for the systematic and satisfactory training of midwives and that half training is worse than no training. But this objection loses all its force when it is taken into consideration that even the very elements of cleanliness and non-interference are unknown to the kind of women who are now summoned to attend upon labour cases and that many a mother's and child's life can be saved by at least cautioning the women against the evil effects of dirty handling of maternity cases and unnecessary frequent interference.

It is therefore urged that a course of 48 lectures spreading over a period of 12 months at the rate of a lecture a week be delivered by the Lady Doctor to the local dais of Shimoga town and the adjoining villages, that a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month be held out as an inducement for those dais to attend such lectures, that a maximum number of students for a course be fixed at 5 and that a Lady Doctor be given an honorarium of Rs. 50 a month for the extra duty devolved upon her owing to this work.

The whole scheme will thus cost:—

	Rs.
Scholarships for 5 dais at Rs. 10 a month for 12 months ...	600
Allowance to the Lady Doctor at Rs. 50 a month for 12 months...	600
Miscellaneous including sundry charges such as books, etc., (L. S.)	300
Total ...	1,500

S. N. APPANNA IYENGAR,
Secretary, Central Committee,
Malnad Improvements, Shimoga.

APPENDIX 'B'.

Land-tenure in the malnad of the Kadur District.

In the malnad parts of the Kadur District, the area under coffee cultivation is 74,842 acres and 15 guntas; 37,917 acres and 15 guntas being under European and 36,925 acres under Indian Planters. Most of the lands in the holdings of European Planters are held on the permanent tenure of Rs. 1/8 an acre and that under Indian Planters at the 30 years' tenure at Rs. 1 per acre.

Before the Revenue Survey and Settlement up to 1882, large areas of land were held by landlords who sub-let them to small cultivators on what was known as the "Shikmi" tenure. The landlord received a 'panch sheer' of clean coffee on every maund of 28 lbs. produced by the grower. At the time there was no land-tax but a "Halat" of four annas a maund was collected on all coffee produce the "Shikmidar" and the landlord paying their respective shares.

On the introduction of the Revenue Survey and an acreage assessment, which was very strenuously opposed by most of Indian planters, large areas of land were registered by the landlords who could not afford to pay the new assessment and many "Shikmidars" applied for and obtained lands which have been cultivated and much improved by them.

The area under paddy cultivation is 100,697 acres assessed at from Rs. 3 to 6 an acre.

Before the revenue survey and settlements the land was held under the "Batayi" system and revenue paid in kind and most of this land was held by three or four influential men in the villages and was cultivated by them with the aid of "Jitalu" agrestic slaves—Holeyars chiefly—who belonged body and soul to the land-lord. They were fed, clothed and married by the land-lord and their debts were carried on from generation to generation. Their condition was by no means an unhappy one as they were all looked after, mothers and little children fed and cared for and the aged getting a dole of food and clothing. With spread of coffee cultivation many of these agrestic slaves, envying the free life, command of the ready money and the lot of coffee estate coolies generally, absconded to coffee estates and emancipated themselves. As there was no means of recovering either the money or services of these absconders, the Courts declining to interfere or take action on antiquated documents and agreements, more and more of these Jitalu left their employers or Wodeyars as they were called and become freemen. For want of this class of labour and their inability to cultivate all their lands and pay the money assessment, many land-lords, dependent mostly on paddy cultivation resigned their inferior lands keeping only the best for their own cultivation. In course of time a good many of the once Jitalus, returned to their villages and having saved money took up lands resigned by their late land-lords, cultivating it themselves

and working on coffee or doing other work in their spare time. These are now independent, were it not for the debts they contract for marriage and other expenses. They now exchange their landlord for sowcar as over lord and their more or less comforts luxuries and living have increased and marriage expenses have risen to an enormous extent from Rs. 40 to Rs. 150.

The new landlord has to borrow money from a sowcar to enable him to carry on the usual rate of interest is 25 Khandagas or 45 seers of paddy for the loan of Rs. 100 with penalties amounting to double the quantity for default. As may be imagined, the condition and prospects of the cultivator are simply hopeless as he is more a slave than he ever was.

In case where the landlords have retained their lands, they sublet them on the 'Waram' tenure to raiyats—poor wakkalamakkalu, billars, kurubars, weavers, blacksmiths and holeyars. By this tenure, the cultivator becomes a tenant at will and gives half of his produce grain and straw to the landlord in the event of the landlord supplying manure, he gets the whole of the straw. The landlord pays all taxes.

It is not a very good system but appeals to the small cultivator as he has nothing to lose and goes on until he has made enough to get a bit of land of his own.

In most cases under this system the landlord only gets enough grain as will be covered by the tax on the land but rather than relinquish the land he is willing to get anyone to cultivate it. The cultivator has many ways of getting more out of the land than the landlord. Although the cultivator is supposed to do all the work and give the equal share of the produce to the landlord in actual practice the latter gets less, as half the cost of carrying the crop to the threshing floor and the threshing out of the grain is borne by the landlord, by which he loses about 10 per cent of the crop. For seed, sowing, manuring ploughing and transplanting and cutting the paddy the raiyat either does the work himself or pays, but for carrying the crop to the threshing floor one head-load of grain and straw for a day's work is given as cooly or hire it is always taken from the heaviest bearing field and as the cultivator and as many of his family, who can carry a load, go for the work the landlord pays away a very large percentage of what should really be his own. It is the same with the threshing. The work is carried on at nights and is paid for in grain so much for each man and pair of bullocks employed and again the landlord is the loser.

Another system and quite a good one is to give the land out to a cultivator who pays the tax and gives the landlord a fixed quantity of grain and straw or the landlord pays the tax and takes only the fixed quantity of the produce.

The drawback to this system from the cultivators' point of view is, that in a bad season he has to give his quota of produce whether he gets it or not and in most cases the quantity of grain fixed is very high and barely pays the cultivator and is only prevalent where the land is scare and labour is plentiful.

Another system is to give out the land on 'Moolageni' for one or more years. The cultivator delivering at his own house from 5 or 10 khandagas of paddy (45 seers) to the landlord. This system seems to work satisfactorily but there is no hope of improvement in agriculture, the cultivator being afraid of enhanced moolageni and the landlord being quite satisfied with what he gets. In some cases the cultivator has a permanent right in the land and so long as he gives the quantity of grain or amount of the lease agreed on—the landlord cannot oust him or raise his rent. The cultivator has the power to sell his right in the lands and transfer it to others.

As a general rule, paddy land is too highly assessed in the malnad and barely pays for cultivation. Makki fields assessed at about Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 being absolutely dependent on the rainfall, suffering very much for the want of seasonable rain and consequently more often than not being a dead loss. Thagginagadde give good crops if manured but there is very little land in the malnad that gives a gross profit of more than Rs. 20 to Rs. 40 an acre.

For the last two or three years the price of paddy has doubled in price but as a rule the cultivator does not get the benefit of the enhanced price. The Maplah, Labbe or other sowcar—invariably a foreigner—advances against the crop for taxes or other expenditure and buys the paddy at Re. 1 a khandaga. Invariably at the reaping time paddy is sold at a low price to pay taxes and about August and after the same paddy if held up would fetch just double.

The next most important crop where the landlord and tenant are concerned is areca. In parts of the malnad and Tarikere the system is to give out the land to cultivators who dig, water and put out manure supplied by the landlord, and to watch the garden. The cultivator growing beetel leaves, plantains, limes and any other crop which he takes as his share of the produce. The landlord picks and prepares the areca crop for the market. The system works well and both landlord and tenant appear to be well satisfied with it to their mutual benefits, and there is no 'howl' for the want of labour to cultivate the garden and hardly any are lying uncultivated.

In Koppa and Kalasa the system is different. The Koppa Taluk is practically owned and divided among ten or a dozen large land-lords who pay from Rs. 1,000 to 8,000 in taxes.

There are 4,561 acres of areca and 16,820 under paddy in the Koppa Taluk.

The general plan is to give out the land on what is known as moolageni tenure. The tenant giving 10 to 20 maunds of prepared arecanut per acre and 5 to 10 kandagas of paddy of wet land. The lease runs for a very short term, two to five years and the tenant is afraid to improve the land as his mulageni will be increased and he is always at the mercy of the land-lord, who can generally find a new cultivator at a higher rate of mulageni ready to take up the land at the end of the lease. The land-lords seem to be getting the last ounce out of the tenants and many of the latter complain they get a bare living out of the transaction. Roughly speaking one-third of the land in the Koppa Taluk is left uncultivated. This is put down entirely for want of labour, but easier and more liberal terms to tenants would very soon find cultivators for most of the land.

When critisizing the Labour Scheme prepared by Mr. S. N. Appanna Iyengar, I wrote as follows:—

"The people who are complaining loudest of the shortness of labour are the large land-holders men who have more land than they can cultivate or sublet at a highly profitable rental. They prefer to stick to and abandon their proprietors rather than resign them for fear of somebody else more capable, taking them up and working them" and my suggestion was received with a howl of protest with more abuse than argument but the sub-committee make the revolutionary proposition that some provision be made for resuming land that is allowed to lie waste for five years continuously. Obviously it is impossible for Government to pass such a law without paying enormous sums in compensation to owners of unproductive fallow lands and on the face of it, it does not seem equitable to deprive a man of lands, he and his forbearers have been paying taxes for many years either for his own benefit or to the detriment of others.

All along the tram line from Tarikere to Narasimharajapura, there are large areas of assessed land that have been taken up by speculators in the hope of making a profit by reselling the land. Between Tarikere and Lakkavalli there was only one block of 11 acres of assessed land that is now not owned, but little has been cultivated.

I am given to understand that already there are many applicants for waste assessed lands and Bechark villages situated along the proposed tram-line from Benkipur to the forests. It will be found that a good deal of this land is taken up by speculators and other varieties of land grabbers.

What I would suggest is, that in future:—

1. All lands sold by Government be subject to a clause compelling the purchasers to bring 25 per cent of the land under cultivation annually in default, the cultivated portion should lapse to Government with an indemnity for failure to cultivate.

2. That in the new land settlement all lands over a certain area in extent uncultivated for a period of five years, a clause be inserted that every year the land is allowed to lie fallow double the assessment be recovered with an annual increase for continued want of cultivation.

3. That land the property of certain agricultural classes should be made inalienable to prevent sowcars and others advancing money on valuable lands and getting possession of them.

I think there is a good deal to be said on behalf of the land-lords. There are many of them who are kind and considerate to their cultivators and are justly popular and there are many tenants and cultivators that are grateful for having such land-lords but at the same time there are many who spend their leisure hours in devising how they can impose upon and cheat them.

Co-operative Societies are very necessary and in the absence of a Bank is the only salvation of the agriculturists.

I would suggest that societies for agriculturists be kept quite distinct from those for traders, Special Inspectors for Agricultural Societies and Special Inspectors for Industries and Commerce being appointed.

The great difficulty in starting and carrying on these Co-operative Societies in the Kadur malnad is in finding local men sufficiently educated to carry out the duties of Secretary and the want of confidence in each other among members and party feeling the members of one side obstructing the others at every opportunity until the Society becomes a family affair serving few of its shareholders.

D. W. MEPPEN,
Economic Superintendent, Kadur.

APPENDIX "C".

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MALNAD
IMPROVEMENTS, SHIMOGA.
Dated Camp Arsikere, 19th January 1918.

MEMO.

Now that Hassan is connected with Arsikere by Railway, it is proposed that in future, Central Committee meetings may be fixed in the District Headquarters, which will be nearer to the malnad portions of the district, as also to Chikmagalur.

It is also proposed that instead of Birur Chikmagalur may be selected as there is practically no accommodation facilities in the former place.

S. N. APPANNA IYENGAR,
Secretary, Central Committee,
Malnad Improvements, Shimoga.

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN MYSORE.

Notification No. 4248—*C. S.* 24, *dated 4th February* 1918.

In supersession of para 2 of this office Notification No. 7, dated the 30th June 1912, appointing Mr. S. Anantharama Iyengar, late Deputy Amildar of Harihar Sub-Taluk, as Liquidator of the Harihareswara Co-operative Society, it is hereby notified that Mr. K. Subba Rao, Deputy Amildar, Harihar Sub-Taluk, is appointed as Liquidator of the aforesaid Society under Section 24, clause 1 of the Mysore Co-operative Societies Regulation, III of 1905.

Notification No. 4285—*C. S.* 24, *dated 5th February* 1918.

A Conference of the Co-operative Societies in the Tumkur District will be held at Tumkur, on the 14th February 1918. All the societies in the district are requested to send delegates to the Conference with brief reports on the working of the societies.

The following subjects will be discussed at the Conference:—

(1) Principles on which loans and cash-credits may be granted to primary societies.
(2) Duties of the panchayet and office-bearers of societies and the necessity for their training.
(3) Relationship of primary societies to Federal Unions.
(4) Honorary Supervisors for Co-operative Societies.
(5) Grain Banks.
(6) Enquiry into the indebtedness of members of Co-operative Societies.
(7) Development of Industrial and Agricultural co-operation.
(8) Co-operation and Village Improvement.
(9) Any other subject of importance that may be brought up by the members.

R. RANGA RAO,
Registrar in charge.

ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

Notice dated 30*th January* 1918.

A sum of Rs. 135-10-0 due to Contractors Bathala Kondaboyee, Nagaboyee and Pitchoboyee for improving the channels at Sivasamudram is outstanding in the accounts of this Department. If the parties do not claim the above amount within one month from this date, the same will be credited to Government.

S. G. FORBES,
Chief Electrical Engineer
to the Government of Mysore.